



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
Council on Postsecondary Education  
**OFFICE OF THE POSTSECONDARY COMMISSIONER**  
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Enclosure 7a  
April 14, 2016

**Barbara S. Cottam**  
**Chair**

TO: Members of the Council on Postsecondary Education

**Council on Elementary and Secondary Education**

FROM: Jim Purcell, Ed.D, Commissioner for Postsecondary Education

**Daniel P. McConaghy**  
**Chair**

DATE: April 21, 2016

RE: Funding Formula Guest Speaker Dennis Jones

Amy Beretta, Esq.

**Background**

Colleen A. Callahan, Ed.D.

Legislation in 2014 assigned the responsibility for creating a performance funding formula to the Board of Education and the Council on Postsecondary Education:

Karin Forbes

Jo Eva Gaines

RIGL§ 16-97-1.2 Powers and duties of the Board of Education. – The Board of Education shall have the following powers and duties:

Marta V. Martinez

Lawrence Purtill

... (c) To develop and submit to the General Assembly for approval a performance funding formula for public higher education that furthers the purposes of the board and ensures that all students may achieve educational excellence.

Joyce L. Stevos, Ph.D.

**Council on Postsecondary Education**

**William Foulkes**  
**Chair**

In response to the legislative charge, the Council assigned both OPC and the institutions with the responsibility for implementing the formula. Via the Complete College RI document (Approved, Fall, 2014), the campuses were asked to: *"Identify desired student success metrics including those developed by the Complete College America and establish incentives for achieving those metrics in institutions' base funding."* This effort was further supported through the Higher Education Strategic Plan (Approved, Spring, 2015) as an activity under the Higher Attainment goal: *"Support institutions in developing measures to evaluate persistence and attainment as part of a performance-funding formula."*

Michael Bernstein

Dennis Duffy, Esq.

The Honorable Thomas Izzo

Judy Ouellette

Kerry I. Rafanelli, Esq.

John J. Smith, Jr.

Dr. Jeffery A. Williams

In January 2015 and January 2016, Senate President Paiva Weed and House HEW chair, McNamara, proposed legislation that gives the higher education community guidance on what should be included in the performance funding formula. Graduation rates and preparing workers in high-demand high-wage jobs were specifically identified in the proposed legislation. In addition, the legislation asks that faculty and students be given opportunities to participate in the funding formula development process.

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### Progress

Since January 2015, the campuses have worked to identify performance measures that address the specific interest in the legislation and to identify performance metrics related to the Postsecondary Education Strategic plan and the institutional role, scope and mission.

In August 2016, Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) was contracted to assist in developing the funding formula and performance funding metrics. NCHEMS provides state policymakers and analysts timely and accurate data and information that are useful in making sound higher education policy decisions.

Dennis Jones will speak about the characteristics of good funding formulas and performance funding metrics and specifically what has been worked on in Rhode Island and what still needs to be done.